

FINAL REPORT

OF THE

Tercentenary Committee

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Foreword

"Honor thy Founder Fathers that thy days may be long in the land the Lord thy God has given thee."

James Otis

The year 1955 marked the 300th anniversary of the incorporation of our Town of Chelmsford, Massachusetts. There is but one Chelmsford in the United States although there are two or three in the Dominion of Canada. The mother-town in England is about 20 miles northeast of London. In the ancient records of England we find the following spellings—Chelmersforde, Chelmereford and Chelmesford. Before the days of bridges there was a ford across the river Chelmer at a point which later became known as Chelmer's Ford, hence the later derivations. Chelmsford, England, in the County of Essex, is a town of antiquity as evidenced by the unearthing there of a Roman villa in the middle of the 19th century while Chelmsford's (England) church dates from 1427.

First Settlers

From this town in England, in the early 17th century came settlers to the eastern shore of Massachusetts. Thirty-nine who first settled in Woburn and Concord emigrated to a tract of land situated at the confluence of two rivers, later to be named the Merrimack and the Concord rivers respectively.

Here also came emigrants from Wenham and together the group provided for their spiritual and material needs. When they had satisfied themselves that they wished to settle permanently on their tracts and grants of land they petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for an act of incorporation requesting that the new town be called Chelmsford.

Thus CHELMSFORD was born on May 29, 1655 and the observance of her 300th birthday is recorded herewith in retrospect.

PRELIMINARY PLANNING OF THE CELEBRATION

"Do not basely relinquish what the Fathers with difficulty attained"

(The Latin inscription on Governor Bradford's Monument, Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts.)

The nebulous ideas of the Tercentenary began to take form according to the Selectmen's records, December 30, 1952, as follows:

"On a motion by Mr. (Carl A. E.) Peterson, seconded by Mr. (Raymond) Greenwood, it was unanimously voted to appoint the following named persons as a Committee for the 300th Anniversary of the Town: Royal Shawcross, Arnold C. Perham, Clifford Hartley, Perry T. Snow, Sidney E. Dupee, John J. Meagher, Margaret Robbins Mills and Charles D. Harrington."

Preliminary Planning

Plans for the 300th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Chelmsford were formulated at the March 10, 1952 Annual Town Meeting when the Selectmen were authorized by a vote of the people to name a special Committee for the purpose of "making preliminary plans" for the observance. Immediately after receiving their appointment, January 19, 1953, the above named Committee met January 29th and organized. Royal Shawcross for Chairman, Arnold C. Perham for Vice-chairman and Margaret Robbins Mills for Secretary were the unanimous choice of the committee members.

1953 Procedures

Individual members of the Committee investigated the scope of programs, costs and organizational procedure experienced by other Massachusetts towns which had recently planned and produced Tercentenary or similar celebrations. Representatives of such towns were very cooperative and conferences of this kind proved helpful and beneficial to Chelmsford.

Survey of Public Opinion in Chelmsford

The committee invited at least one representative of every known religious, fraternal, educational, civic and service organization to meet with them May 20, 1953 to: (1) present a resume of the findings of the preliminary planning committee, (2) to give opportunity to discuss these findings, (3) to discuss the feasibility of holding a Tercentenary celebration in 1955 and (4) to receive suggestions pertaining to possible features which might be a part of the 1955 Celebration. Forty-two different groups were invited and the Committee was pleased to note thirty-one people at this meeting and some represented more than one organization.

As a result of this survey it was determined that the Townspeople favored a four-day Celebration to be held in June 1955 and as Chairman Shawcross expressed it "The quality of the program should be extensive enough to command pride in its observance—in other words, the opinion seems to be if we cannot put on a good celebration, let us not put one on at all. It is not the dollars and cents but the pride of the townsmen that will count if the celebration is to be a success."

Suggestions for the four-day program included religious services, historic tours, sporting events, a parade, a firemens muster, evenings of music by our townspeople, at least one banquet, national speakers, dancing and some form of pageantry depicting the history of the Town.

This concentrated four-day program was not to preclude any correlative observance any organization in Town might care to initiate throughout 1955 but it was made clear that the Committee would appreciate being informed of any such procedures in order to avoid duplication or conflicts of dates. For example, the Chelmsford Grange was to observe its 50th Anniversary in 1955 and its program would include historical data depicting progress both in their organization and in the Town of Chelmsford.

The Tercentenary Authorized

At the Annual Town Meeting 1954 the townspeople accepted the report of the Preliminary Planning Committee and under Article 20 "On a motion made by Raymond H. Greenwood it was voted to conduct a Tercentenary Celebration."

At the same Town meeting under Article 21 "On a motion by Raymond H. Greenwood it was voted to appoint the following: namely, Royal Shawcross, Margaret Robbins Mills, Arnold C. Perham, Clifford Hartley, Perry T. Snow, Sidney E. Dupee, Charles D. Harrington and Edward Krasnecki to constitute a Committee to have full power and authority and is hereby given full power and authority to have charge and manage the Tercentenary Celebration of the Town of Chelmsford and that the sum of Five Thousand and no/100 (\$5000) Dollars be raised and appropriated to defray part of the cost of this Celebration. Mr. Shawcross (for business reasons) declined to serve on this Committee and it was voted that the Moderator appoint someone to fill this vacancy.

On May 11, 1954, Carl A. E. Peterson was appointed by the Town Moderator, Edward Desaulnier, to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Shawcross.

At an early date, the Tercentenary Committee deemed it advisable to request Thomas J. Campbell, Harold C. Petterson and John H. Valentine to join the Committee. These names were submitted at a subsequent Special Town Meeting and the men were authorized to serve on the Committee.

At the Annual Town Meeting 1955 under Article 44 "On a motion made by Carl A. E. Peterson, it was voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars to be used by the Tercentenary Committee appointed by the Town for the purpose of celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Chelmsford."

Throughout the weeks and months of the planning and management of the Tercentenary, the above-named eleven townspeople continued as a closely knit, cooperative body endeavoring to make Chelmsford's Tercentenary representative of the modest, stable, dignified Town it has always been.

As this final report is being written, we are saddened as we note the loss of a fellow committee member in August, 1956, namely, our Treasurer, Harold C. Petterson. Mr. Petterson's position necessitated great diligence and many hours of service. It was his constant supervision of the Tercentenary Funds that resulted in a relatively modest "cost figure" for the entire Tercentenary Celebration. We are grateful that he was able to serve with us.

TERCENTENARY PROCEDURES

At the first meeting of the organization, the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee elected the following slate of officers: President, Carl A. E. Peterson; Vice-President, Arnold C. Perham; Secretary, Margaret Robbins Mills; Treasurer, Perry T. Snow. The latter requested that his services be tentative.

It was at this meeting that Chairman Peterson was instructed to confer with the Town Counsel John H. Valentine relative to all steps necessary to form the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee, Incorporated.

One of the aims of the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee was to involve as many townspeople as possible in the preparation and presentation of the Tercentenary events. In order to maintain a supervisory position of all activities, it was decided that the General Committee (after the Incorporation, to be known as the Board of Directors) would appoint all Committee Chairmen designating a member of the General Committee to act as liaison officer on said committee. Otherwise each chairman had the privilege of selecting the members to serve on his committee. However, before becoming active, each committee listing had to be approved by the General Committee. It was this procedure that protected a citizen from being obligated to too many committees.

Tercentenary Headquarters

During the summer of 1954, there was discussion as to where the Tercentenary Headquarters should be located. The Town Hall facilities were limited and through the cooperation of Fire Chief Allen Kidder, the second floor of the Chelmsford Center Fire House was made available and was used daily from April 1955 through June 1955. Here the Executive Secretary was on duty daily with the Secretary Mrs. George S. Wright, Jr. and at times assisted by Mrs. Ruby Heald as clerk. It was necessary to have two telephone lines installed to cope with the many calls to and from those directly responsible for the many activities involved in the Celebration. Practically all Committee meetings were held at the headquarters during day and evening hours.

It should be noted here that Fire Chief Allen Kidder and the firemen were very cooperative, especially in keeping headquarters clean, and tolerant of the extra traffic and activities brought into their building.

Official Seal

All agreed that an Official Seal was both desirable as a decorative motif and as a protection, as its appearance in any form would indicate "official sanction."

Mrs. Roger W. Boyd accepted the Committee's appointment as Chairman of the Official Seal Committee.

A contest was opened to citizens of Chelmsford, the rules and regulations having been very carefully worked out by the Seal Committee. The contest closed July 15, 1954.

On July 27th, Miss Kathleen MacElroy of 32 Billerica Street, Chelmsford, was presented to the General Committee as the winner of the Official Seal Contest. She was the unanimous choice of the judges, who were: Ralph W. Booth, artist, and President of the Ogunquit Art Association, Ogunquit, Maine; Wallace Garland, artist and art teacher, Nashua, New Hampshire; and Margaret Welch, graduate of Boston Museum of Fine Arts and teacher of art in the Cambridge Schools. In behalf of the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee and the townspeo-ple, Chairman Carl A. E. Peterson presented Miss MacElroy with a monetary prize of a \$25 U. S. Treasury bond. Due to the closing of the schools near the beginning of the seal contest, fewer entries were received than at first anticipated and it became necessary to reduce the honorable mentions to three instead of six as first planned. Those receiving honorable mention were Bernard Ready, 9 Turnpike Road, Chelmsford; Bertram T. Needham, 3 Westford Street, Chelmsford; George A. Parkhurst, 61 High St. Chelmsford. Mr. Ready's and Mr. Needham's design appear on the Official Souvenir Program.

Mrs. Boyd was instructed to take all necessary steps to copyright the Official Seal in the name of the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee, Inc.

The entries of the contest were displayed at both the Adams Public Library and the McKay Public Library for a period of time.

According to the plan of the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee, Miss MacElroy's original design was framed and presented to the Chelmsford Historical Society in October, 1955, as a permanent souvenir of the Tercentenary.



Tercentenary Parade Reviewing Stand



Firemen's Muster



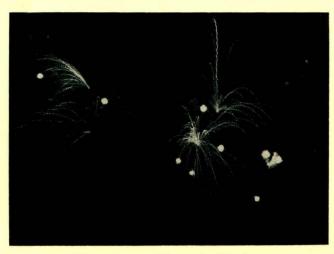
Tercentenary Banquet



Women's Day—Parade of Brides



Chelmsford Police Band at Fireworks Display



Tercentenary Fireworks Display

Newspaper Publicity

The advent of the Tercentenary inspired individual citizens to pursue subjects pertinent to Chelmsford's history, customs and fashions. Miss Eleanor Parkhurst and Mr. George S. Wright, Sr., former Superintendent of the Chelmsford Schools, did a great deal of research and conferred with many well-informed citizens in order to present a series of articles which were published in Lowell and Chelmsford papers, respectively.

Their words conjured memories of "the good old days" for those of us who have lived in Chelmsford from childhood while new residents were made to realize our precious heritage.

It might be noted that at the time of the writing of this report, Miss Parkhurst is continuing to write articles of historical interest in the Chelmsford paper. No doubt, the Tercentenary renewed interest in historical data.

Tercentenary Scrapbook

Mr. Wright was requested by the Committee to keep a scrap book which would contain these articles of interest and also as many clippings as possible regarding the activities pertaining to the Tercentenary which might appear in the newspapers. It is the intention of the Tercentenary Committee to present this book to the Chelmsford Historical Society upon its completion.

"The Chelmsford Story" Illustrated

In order to familiarize the general public with landmarks important to Chelmsford's progress within the 300 years, the Committee requested Lester W. Ball to prepare an illustrated talk to be entitled "The Chelmsford Story." Mr. Ball's interest in both photography and Chelmsford history made him well qualified for this project. With an appropriation from the Committee, Mr. Ball volunteered his time and started in the Fall of 1954 to take pictures which culminated in a set of approximately 200 slides, most of them in color. Beginning in the Spring of 1955, he gave his talk approximately twenty times before various organizations in the Town.

It is the intention of the Tercentenary Committee that all the above slides with written explanations of each by Mr. Ball will be given to the Chelmsford Historical Society.

Costumes of Yesteryear

Mrs. Lydwin Batchelder, a long time resident of Chelmsford and member of the History Committee, initiated in the Spring of 1955 a series of interviews seeking authentic costumes worn in the past by Chelmsford residents. She made many calls upon the Chelmsford residents noting with the experience of a modiste the many details in each garment which was brought forth from many an attic treasure chest. Some of her findings were recorded by her in the local newspaper but her intention is to compile her entire information in book form at some later date.

Mrs. Bachelder aroused such interest among the Chelmsford ladies that they included a Fashion Show (including many old dresses) in the Women's Day Program, while other ladies had an opportunity to display their heirloom costumes in the Old Folks Concert or as hostesses during "Open House," a most delightful feature of the Saturday program.

POSTMARKS

Mr. Harold C. Petterson, Town Clerk and Tax Collector, was given permission to utilize the Tercentenary Official Seal in a design for the purpose of postmark and advertising. Said postmark was attached to the postage cancelling machine in the Town Clerk's office and this special cancellation imprint went out on all official mail from that town office.

Later the Tercentenary Committee authorized the several postmasters in the several sections of Town to apply to the Post Office Department in Washington, D. C. for a special Chelmsford Tercentenary hub to be used on their cancellation machines for the first six months in 1955. Publicity of this special cancellation was even noted in a copy of the New York Times during this time.

DECORATIONS AND SOUVENIRS

Early in the plans blue and gold were established as the official colors to be used throughout the Tercentenary. They appeared on the Official Tercentenary Programs and in the professional decorating during the four day celebration.

Official souvenirs of the Tercentenary included an 80-page Official Tercentenary Program which was available as of May 29, 1955 at 25¢ per copy. Also, there were special Tercentenary pencils embossed with the Official seal which sold for 50¢ per dozen.

(Upon the opening of the school term September, 1955, every pupil in the Chelmsford schools was given one of these pencils with the compliments of the Tercentenary Committee.) Attractive 6" x 6" ceramic tiles bearing the Tercentenary Seal sold for \$1.00 each with an option to select from 2 styles of black wrought-iron holders or trivets at \$1.00 respectively. To accompany the 6" tile were 3" x 3" ceramic tiles boxed in sets of four for \$1.50. For the young people, there were Robin Hood style hats with CHELMS-FORD stitched across the crown; these sold for \$1.00 while little key chains made a gift for young and old for the nominal charge of 25¢.

Sales of these articles were restricted for some time to the contestants of the Queen Contest as they were to receive certain credits for each article sold. Church organizations were allowed a 15% commission on all articles sold; otherwise, all proceeds from the sale of souvenirs were returned to defray expenses of the Tercentenary celebration.

The souvenirs were made available at Tercentenary Headquarters, Information Booth, headquarters of the Ways and Means Committee (Mr. Raymond Osborn's office) and the Town Hall.

HISTORICAL SITES

Early in the plans, a History Committee was established with Howard D. Smith as Chairman, Arnold C. Perham as liaison officer. The work of this Committee is to be highly commended for their endeavors were time consuming and exacting. Details of the many projects involved may be found in other writings in the Tercentenary archives but in general they were responsible for appropriately marking many historical sites of interest; for providing factual information for many items of publicity; for providing exhibits and material pertinent to Chelmsford's history; for selecting and arranging for Open House (inspection of old Chelmsford Homes) Saturday, June 11; and acting as a general information bureau for historical data. Also, this committee completed arrangements to have the old 1832 Middlesex Canal Toll House, formerly situated on the estate of the late Judge Samuel P. Hadley, moved to the lawn of the Chelmsford Center Town Hall where it was utilized as an Information and sale of tickets Booth during the Celebration. For the past several years it has been located on the property of the Proctor Lumber Company to whom it had been loaned by the Hadley heirs. However, during the Tercentenary year, 1955, it was bequeathed to the town of Chelmsford by the Hadley heirs (Miss Bessie Hadley and Mrs. William Lamson) with the understanding it shall henceforth remain on town property as an historical exhibit.

APRIL 19TH

This date always brings to mind Chelmsford's contribution to the cause of Liberty and Freedom in 1775. As a bit of publicity in 1955, a group of Chelmsford High School boys were chosen to re-enact the gathering of Chelmsford's Minutemen in the center of Chelmsford. From here (in 1955) they were transported to Concord where they participated in the Annual April 19th Parade.



Tercentenary Parade



Tercentenary Parade—Old Equipages.



Tercentenary Parade



Tercentenary Parade



Tercentenary Parade



Tercentenary Parade

APRIL 19TH AUCTION

The Ways and Means Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Raymond T. Osborn worked diligently and with ingenuity to reimburse the treasury of the Tercentenary Committee thus minimizing the expenditure of the Town's appropriations.

There were many projects but the first one to come to the public's attention was a grand auction held April 19, 1955 in the Chelmsford High School and first assistant to Mr. Osborn in this event was Mr. Charles House.

Items were solicited from the citizens of Chelmsford who responded generously, then through the cooperation of the Ways and Means Committee members the items were transported to the Auction place where "The Emersons," Ted and Brad, well known Chelmsford auctioneers, volunteered their services. Mrs. Edward Dryden (Alice Wilson Dryden) assisted by other members of the Ways and Means Committee was chairman of the food which was made available during the day to workers and customers. The revenue from these sales and from the auctioned articles proved very satisfactory and the event publicized the coming Celebration to all present, many of whom were from out of town.

QUEEN CONTEST

As a matter of publicity, a Queen Contest was held (May 2-June 8, 1955) under the supervision of Mr. Sheppard Bartlett, Chairman of the Publicity Committee. He and his assistants set up the rules and regulations for the contest indicating that the girl must be single, between the ages of 15 and 21 and a resident of Chelmsford.

A point system was devised by the following methods:

- Selling souvenirs—one point for each penny in sales.
- 2. Selling tickets to the Tercentenary dances and the Saturday night banquet one point for each penny in sales.

3. Make personal appearances to groups or organizations or stores in Chelmsford and within a radius of 15 miles—1000 points for each appearance (the personal appearance must be registered with the Queen Contest Committee.)

"The winner of the Queen Contest to receive a three-day week-end trip for two to New York City or \$100 in cash."

The runner-up finalist will receive a \$25 cash prize.

The seven contestants were Diana Blondin, Rosemary Gibbons, Carole Henderson, Joan Linnell, Donna Marks, Betty Lee Morrison and Marcia White.

At the Kick-Off Dinner when the final selection was made, the contestants were seated at a separate table with the judges. Added to the points already earned, the judges were required to rate each girl at the table for her personality, attractiveness and poise.

The selection for the Queen was Miss Betty Lee Morrison, Willis Drive, North Chelmsford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Morrison. Henceforth, throughout the fourday celebration, she appeared at many events, frequently accompanied by the other contestants who formed a "Queen's Court."

After the celebration, the Publicity Committee sent both Miss Morrison and Miss White to New York City for a trip.

MUSIC ACTIVITIES

Mr. Arthur Thompson was appointed in 1954 to be chairman of all Music Activities relative to the Tercentenary with Margaret Robbins Mills of the Tercentenary Committee as liaison officer. Together with their committee, they attended to the many, many details which resulted in programs which were highly praised by the citizens of Chelmsford.

Parade Music

The Parade Music was a tremendous responsibility and a credit to the town and marching units. Mr. Thompson set the standards high for music units who wished to participate in the Parade and he invited only those who conformed with his code. Bands which were witnessed marching in the Parade represented only the best from educational, fraternal and civic organizations in Massachusetts. There were both professional and non-professional musicians represented.

Chelmsford Auxiliary Police Band

One band deserves very special attention.

It was organized through the efforts and interests within the Chelmsford Police Department. Sergeant Basil J. Larkin was for 16 years band instructor for the Middlesex County Training School, North Chelmsford and presently band instructor at the Lowell Technological Institute. Sergeant Larkin's brother, Bernie, is well remembered as a former Chelmsford High School band instructor. Together they shared the knowledge that graduates from institutions of formal learning desire opportunities in the community for continuance of their instrumental training and experience. In the past there have been Chelmsford bands but not for some time, thus the idea of a revival of a community band was initiated in the Police Department. Funds necessary for uniforms and music were forthcoming by donations from Chelmsford citizens and it was decided to name the new organization The Chelmsford Auxiliary Police Band. Approximately thirty instrumentalists, professional and nonprofessional, made up the membership of the band with an excellent balance of intrumental choirs. The debut of the band was Wednesday evening, June 8, 1955, when they presented a concert at the Varney Playground, North Chelmsford, for an hour prior to the display of fireworks as an opening feature of the four-day Celebration. The band made two other appearances during the celebration—one as a marching musical unit in the Parade and as an opening feature of the Pony League Baseball game.

It should be noted here that the Band has continued to serve Chelmsford as a band organization presenting outdoor concerts on Wednesday evenings during July and August of 1955 and 1956 on the North Chelmsford and Chelmsford Center Commons. The personnel donating their services has increased to approximately forty with a notable age range from one or two high school students with proven exceptional talent to members of the regular police force with band experience. The original committee chosen by the band and charged with the responsibility of organizing the band were:

Basil Larkin, Director
Jerry Dirrubo, North Chelmsford, Chairman
Donald Hankinson, North Chelmsford,
Secretary
John Foley, Chelmsford Center
Walter Wilkins, West Chelmsford

The Chelmsford citizens are justly proud and appreciative of the efforts and program presentations by this Band and young citizens are grateful for the possible opportunity to continue their musical interests in the community.

Guest Conductor Invited

At the 250th Anniversary in 1905, an Old Folks Concert was presented and Arthur W. Allen, a Chelmsford resident, was conductor. During the summer of 1954 The Tercentenary Committee invited Mr. Allen's son, Leroy W. Allen, to conduct an Old Folks Concert at the 300th Anniversary in 1955. Mr. Leroy W. Allen, a native of Chelmsford, moved to California where he became Chairman of the Music Department also Director of Bands and Symphony Orchestra at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Mr. Allen replied "My immediate answer is that I would be both happy and proud to do it (be conductor of the Old Folks Concert) if such an event is scheduled."

Mr. Allen travelled to Chelmsford from California at his own expense, arriving in April of 1955. He became a very active member of the Musical Activities Committee and arranged for weekly rehearsals of the citizens who volunteered to participate in the Old Folks Concert.

Miss Lila M. Crowley was selected as accompanist for the Old Folks Concert, Tercentenary Choral Concert and School pageant. Aged 15 years, she had studied piano for seven years with Mr. Arthur Thompson displaying unusual talent. In 1955, she was a Sophomore at Chelmsford High School. The Chorus members and conductors of each event were proud to present her to the audiences of 1955 trusting that she may inherit responsibility for music activities at some future anniversary of Chelmsford.

Music Posters

Mr. Lee Seldon Billington, a resident of Chelmsford and member of the Choral groups volunteered to do the art work necessary on the publicity posters for the concerts. The motif was a facsimile of the cover on Father Kemp's singing books which were used at both the 250th and 300th Anniversaries Old Folks Concerts.

Ode Contest

In late March, 1955, the Music Committee announced the rules and regulations for a poem or ode contest for which a prize—a \$25 Savings Bond—would be offered. The text was to pertain to Chelmsford and/or the Tercentenary and was to be suitable for a hymn-style musical setting. The plans being to have said composition sung upon appropriate occasions during the Celebration.

On April 25th, it was announced that the poem of Ednah F. Byam Parkhurst (Mrs. G. Thomas Parkhurst) had been chosen

unanimously by the judges. It is interesting to note that a poem by Mrs. Parkhurst was selected for the ode in 1905 at the 250th Celebration.

Mr. Arthur Thompson composed the accompanying music for the 1955 ode.

This Tercentenary Hymn was sung in the churches during the Tercentenary and presented as a feature of the Old Folks Concert and Tercentenary Choral Concert respectively.

TREE PLANTINGS

Mr. Myles Hogan, Chelmsford's Tree Warden, presented a novel idea to the Tercentenary Committee which was accepted. Mr. Hogan offered to provide an evergreen tree and arrange for transportation of same to the center of Billerica as a Tercentenary gift from Chelmsford to Billerica (which was incorporated on the same date as Chelmsford). Also, the Colmer Monument Works offered a stone to be used as an appropriate marker at the base of said tree if the Committee would approve the necessary expenditure for the lettering, which was done. The tree was formally planted in May 1955 during the Billerica Celebration.

In return, Billerica presented, under the same conditions, a rock maple tree to Chelmsford which was placed on the Middlesex Street side of the North Chelmsford Common with appropriate marker during Chelmsford's Celebration in June, 1955.

CHELMSFORD GARDEN CLUB GIFT

Mrs. Archibald G. MacElroy, President, in behalf of the Chelmsford Garden Club presented to the town of Chelmsford, evergreens which were formally planted in June 1955 at either side of the Adams Public Library steps with an appropriate marker. Members of the Garden Club, officials of the Town of Chelmsford and representatives of the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee were present.

SPECIAL AMERICAN FLAG

In April, 1955, the Executive Secretary recommended the purchase of an American flag "which will have been flown over the Capitol in Washington, D. C." Arrangements were made through Congresswoman Edith Norse Rogers to obtain the flag and it was later presented to the Town of Chelmsford with the stipulation "it be flown from Townowned flagpoles, during the Tercentenary and in the future on special occasions."

On Sunday, June 5, 1955, at noon, representatives of the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee, officials of the Town, representatives of the American Legion, Scout organizations, and four children representing the Four Freedoms, gathered at the flagpole in Chelmsford Center, where Mrs. Rogers presented the flag, Gregory Caron, member of the Chelmsford Auxiliary Police Band, played "To the Colors," as Ralph Adams, flag custodian, fastened it to the halyard and raised it atop the flagpole where it was flown daily for the ensuing week.

THE ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

To attempt to put into words everything that happened in the course of Chelmsford's Tercentenary Celebration would call for a book much larger than the committee contemplates, and much would be in duplication of the Tercentenary Film which has been turned over to the town for safekeeping for the future, and also duplication of the actual photographs contained in this final report.

The celebration was planned as a four-day program, Thursday, June 9, through Sunday, June 12, 1955, but so many events were arranged that the kick-off dinner, the crowning of the queen, the first showing of the school pageant and the fireworks had to be scheduled for Wednesday, June 8.

Kick-off Dinner

The first event was the kick-off dinner served to the committee members, the sub-committee members and as many of the other workers as could attend. It was held in a large tent located on the First Parish Unitarian grounds and extending out into Westford street.

It was informal in its scope, with a brief speaking program and highlighted by the crowning of the Tercentenary Queen, Betty Lee Morrison, by Judge John H. Valentine, and the presentation of the queen and her court to the Tercentenary committee and to the town.

Tercentenary Pageant

Immediately following the banquet, the youth activities committee sponsored the first showing of the Chelmsford Tercentenary pageant, staged and presented by the Chelmsford school system, with hundreds of school children participating.

This was one of the most elaborate pageants ever attempted by the school system, and the training that went into it was reflected in the marvellous precision, the excellent rendition and the brilliant staging.

Fireworks Display

The final event of "kick-off" night came at 10 o'clock at the Varney playground, when the Tercentenary committee staged the greatest fireworks display the town ever witnessed.

The display was held in the natural bowl formed by the baseball field, and some 5,000 or more residents of the town and visitors jammed every conceivable elevation about the diamond to watch the marvellous display of set pieces and aerial pyrotechnics.

Police and fire departments co-operated to the limit for the safety of the people at this as at every other Tercentennial event, and the Chelmsford Auxiliary Police band made its formal bow by presenting a splendid concert prior to the fireworks showing.

"Kick-off night" was an extra, in the sense that it came on the evening before the formal program got under way, but it was an enjoyable and well-attended part of the observance.

The Official Opening

At 8 a. m. Thursday, June 8, the official celebration was announced by the ringing of church bells, and from then on there were no breaks in the series of events.

As part of the observance, the Chelmsford school system held its annual field day Thursday from 10 a. m. until early afternoon, running off a number of contests with nearly all of the older students taking part.

At the same time, informal parties were held at the various schools for the younger children, as it was not deemed safe to have these tots at the field day, which was sponsored jointly by the school department and the Lions club.

Also at 10 o'clock that morning the tree planting ceremony was held at the Adams library with the Chelmsford Garden club presenting evergreens which, it is hoped, will stand for many years to add beauty to the site and also serve as a reminder of the celebration.



Tercentenary School Pageant



Tercentenary Youth Day



Tercentenary Queen and Court



Women's Day-Crafts Exhibit



Women's Day Prize Cakes



Women's Day-Arts and Crafts Exhibit

Also on Thursday at 2:30 P. M. the annual Chelmsford vs Billerica High School baseball game was played at the high school grounds.

The first baseball was pitched by Arnold C. Perham and caught by Fred W. Holt, both were players on the Town ball team which played on the Fletcher St. grounds during the celebration fifty years ago.

The baseball used was the same one used in the 1905 game.

Historical Exhibits

Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons the Chelmsford Historical society had its exhibits of rare books, documents and Indian relics open for public inspection at the Adams Library Reading Room and the Chelmsford Historical Society Museum, this exhibit was visited by many townspeople and out-of-town guests alike who were interested in the relics of the past which have been so well garnered and preserved by the Historical Society down through the years.

On Thursday afternoon the Chelmsford 4-H clubs set up a barnyard exhibit on the McFarlin school grounds which remained during the course of the celebration as a reminder of farm life for those not familiar with this branch of activity. The clubs also had an exhibit in the McFarlin school cafeteria of the many types of work in which they are engaged.

Thursday night the second and final showing of the Tercentenary pageant was held, and the second capacity audience applauded the work of the school teachers and children "until the rafters rang."

WOMEN'S DAY

Friday, June 10th, was especially designated as Women's Day. Under the direction of Mrs. Donald E. Wilder of Chelmsford, as chairman, an excellent program was presented.

Cake Decorating Contest

The first event was a cake decorating contest. The competition was opened to women residents of Chelmsford and fourteen beautifully decorated cakes were placed in the final entry before the judges. All who saw the cakes agreed that the judges' task of selecting the winners for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd monetary prizes must have been difficult. These cakes were served at the tea held in conjunction with the Fashion Show.

Arts and Crafts Exhibit

During the day at the Unitarian Church vestry was an exhibit of Arts and Crafts created by 87 men and women of Chelmsford who contributed 310 articles. These attracted a great deal of attention as the entries were varied and well done. No doubt some of the visitors to this exhibit were inspired to participate in a new hobby er renew a latent interest and certainly in many instances to realize a neighbor's talent hitherto unknown. This portion of the program was in charge of Mrs. Richard Monahan assisted by Mrs. Raymond Johnson, Mrs. Allan Kidder, Mrs. Leslie Currier, Mrs. John Gardiner, Mrs. Harry Dix and Mrs. James Robinson.

Fashion Parade

At the All Saints' Church Parish House during Friday afternoon was a review by Chelmsford women called Fashions on Parade followed by Part II, the Parade of Brides. Here the audience saw many treasured gowns which are brought to light only on "special occasions" such as this. During the Parade of Brides, a bridal gown worn by Mrs. Louise Worthen in 1825 was modeled while in sharp contrast was Mrs. Charles Cashin, Chelmsford's most recent bride, in her complete attire. Incidental and background music was provided by Mrs. Michael Popolizio, organist, Mrs. Wesley Harper and Mrs. Hector Parker, soloists, and a quartet of Chelmsford High School girls known as the Mellotones, namely: Misses Prunella Pouliot, Linda Patton, Carol French and Peggy Connors. Co-chairmen for the event were Mrs. Lawrence A. Litchfield and Mrs. Forsaith Daniels assisted by Mrs. Robert Byam, narrator, while Mrs. Frederick Burne, Mrs. Elton Silk and Mrs. Ernest Coupe were responsible for decorations and Mrs. Clifford Varnum and Mrs. Armand LaHaise were in charge of the costumes worn by the 75 models.

HOME COMING EVENT

Old Folks Concert

The evening of June 10, 1955 will long be remembered. Upon Mr. Allen's suggestion, it emphasized the spirit and actuality of reunion.

The audience was greeted at the doors of the High School Auditorium by daughters of well known Chelmsford residents, namely: Dorothy Davis Lewis, Eleanor Parkhurst, Ruth Jefts and Phyllis G. Scoboria; all were in period costumes made by Miss Jefts.

At the appointed time, the curtains of the stage were parted presenting a nostalgic scene as approximately forty Chelmsford singers, all in costume, rose to greet their conductor, Mr. Allen.

After the musical portion of the program was finished, chairs were pulled aside into groupings with an area left for dancing. During the remainder of the evening friends from far and near renewed friendships and reminisced to their heart's content. One of the most significant observations was Mrs. Arthur Warren dancing with her son, Mr. Edwin H. Warren. It was noted that Mrs. Warren had been a member of the Old Folks Concert group in 1905 and had danced at the 1905 Ball, yet in 1955 seemed light of foot and agile after an interim of 50 years.

Those who had the privilege of singing under the direction of Mr. Allen remain grateful for his generosity to voluntarily give so unstintingly of his time and ability to make the Old Folks Concert the success that it was.

After Mr. Allen's return to California, the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee sent to him as a token of appreciation, a framed picture of the Old Folks Concert group and a framed testimonial lettered in manuscript.

THE BIG DAY

Saturday was "the big day" of the celebration, and there wasn't a minute during which some event wasn't in progress.

Parade

Highlight, of course, was the parade which drew nearly 50,000 spectators, a turn out never before equalled in the town, and the reaction of this crowd was that it was the

best parade any of them had ever seen.

Like all other Tercentenary events, months of planning had gone into arranging this affair and, by a freak of circumstance the chairman of the parade committee, Thomas R. Hennessy, was ill and had to leave the culmination of his planning to his capable assistants.

As early as 7:30 a. m. parade units started to arrive. Police details "loaned" to the town through the efforts of Police Chief Ralph J. Hulslander kept the parade route clear and enabled the parade committee to get the mammoth affair under way on time and carry it through without a hitch.

Here to view the parade from a special reviewing stand were Governor Christian A. Herter, Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers, Director Norman Mason of the Federal Housing authority, Mayor John Janas of Lowell, and scores of local officials and committee members, with their wives. Lt. Governor Sumner Whittier also came as a guest but chose to march in the parade, getting a big hand as he strode along the two-mile parade route from the Westlands, up Dalton road to North road, through Central square and down Chelmsford street to the break-up point below Golden Cove

Heading the line of march as grand marshal was Capt. George W. Peterson, Spanish American War Veteran, Gold Star Mothers, World War I Veterans and some of the older residents of town, all riding in cars, including Mrs. Katherine M. Daley, the oldest living native born resident.

Police Chief Ralph J. Hulslander led a detail of police which headed the first division, and with him were Acting Supt. John J. Murray of the Lowell police, other Lowell police officials and officers, Lt. Gov. Whittier and Rep. Edward J. DeSaulnier, Jr. This division included Army, Navy, National Guard and other military units, veterans of all wars and many Legion units.

The second division was headed by a Marine Corps color guard followed by the Chelmsford police band, the Tercentenary queen and her aides on a beautiful float, Boy and Girl Scouts and other similar units, along with the first group of beautiful floats, many depicting scenes of historical interest.



Old Folks Concert



Parade Reviewing Stand

Judge John H. Valentine, Gov. Christian A. Herter
(center), Chairman Carl A. E. Peterson, Rep. Edith
Nourse Rogers.



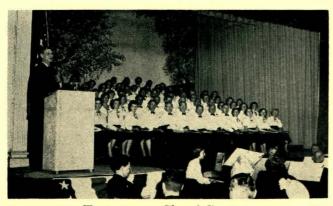
Tercentenary Parade



Tercentenary Parade—Silver Spurs Horse Club



Lt. Gov. Sumner Whittier at Tercentenary Banquet



Tercentenary Choral Concert

Another group of floats followed and marching proudly with this unit was the local Silver Spurs Horse club, some 40 mounts bedecked in their best and ridden by their proud owners.

Church groups marched in the next group, and with them were some of the most elaborate floats seen in this area, and following came more and more floats entered by local groups; with another division of floats following with a Civil Air Patrol color guard, some horse drawn equipages of the olden days.

In the final division—given over to fire trucks of today and long ago, were scores of fire trucks from all over this section of the country, along with more than a score of old "hand tubs" which were to battle in the muster later in the day. Fire Chief Allen Kidder headed this division.

With each division were many bands and some drum corps, and there never was a moment when there wasn't music to set the beat for the marchers and to thrill the spectators.

Although the town never had welcomed such a group as that which came here to watch or participate in the parade, there wasn't a single accident or any traffic tie-up, thanks to the well-planned arrangements made by parade officials and the police chief, and to the willing aid rendered by state, city and town police.

Firemen's Muster

Immediately following the parade, which took two hours to pass a given point, the old-time firemen's muster was held on the old trotting park grounds (about 500 yds. down Manahan Street.) and this drew a steady and ever growing crowd all afternoon.

Here the old hand tubs were pumped to the limit as the crews sought to win valuable prizes, and here also a humorous "water polo" game was played with hose lines replacing the usual polo clubs or mallets.

Refreshment stands here and at various points near the parade route did a land-office business, for a large majority of those who came to see the parade stayed to enjoy the day with the Chelmsford celebrants.

Open House

Saturday afternoon many visitors to town took advantage of the opportunity to visit some of the town's historic homes, which were open for guided tours, and they went away thrilled with the beauty of the old homes and the manner in which they have become adapted to modern living. These and others also visited the Antiquarian room of the Chelmsford Historical society and viewed the many relics of the past which were on display.

Tercentenary Banquet

In the same tent where the kick-off dinner had been held, hundreds sat Saturday night at the Tercentenary banquet. In all, 500 persons were fed at this affair and the chief address was given by Lt. Gov. Whittier, who lauded Chelmsford's historical past and praised it for its plans for an even more glorious future as one of the most "up-and-coming" towns in the state.

Tercentenary Balls

Saturday night a highly successful Tercentenary Ball was held at the high school auditorium, and at the same time a modern dance was held at the North school auditorium for the younger people.

FAMILY DAY

Special Church Services

On Sunday, the morning was given over to church services, with the Tercentenary the theme of many of the sermons.

Band concerts and a tree planting scheduled at North Chelmsford and the Center were put over for a week because of rain.

RECEPTION

During Sunday Afternoon the South Chelmsford Village Improvement Association welcomed many former residents at a reception held at their Liberty Hall.

Invitations were extended to all residents of Chelmsford, as well as to friends out of town. Although a rainy afternoon, all who attended (and there were many) will recall this event with happy memories.

FINALE

Tercentenary Choral Concert

For the final program presented June 12th at the High School auditorium the Music Activities Committee and the Church Affairs Committee worked together. The latter Committee presented Professor Richard M. Cameron of Concord, Mass. as speaker of the evening. Mr. Cameron gave a scholarly address upon the subject: "Town and Gown in Chelmsford's History"—(Gown referring to ministerial garments) — during which he traced the history of Chelmsford's churches.

On the same program, Sunday evening, the Musical Activities Committee presented a massed chorus of approximately one hundred voices, the majority of singers being men and women residents of Chelmsford.

The Tercentenary Choral Group were under the direction of Mr. Arthur Thompson, a native of Chelmsford, and the accompaniments were played by Miss Lila M. Crowley and an instrumental ensemble. Songs of inpiration, dignity and praise voiced the pride and sentiment of Chelmsford's citizentry. The program was fundamentally sacred and the request for "no applause" made the ending more impressive with silence. Singers and audience alike must have meditated seriously upon the Town's motto, "Let the Children Guard What the Sires Have Won."

In all, it was a most successful celebration and one in which everyone who worked in any manner for its success could feel pleased.

No attempt has been made to single out any committee members or workers for individual credit. To each and all of the following men and women who served on the various committees goes the town's praise for a job well done.

LIST OF COMMITTEES

General Committee

Carl A. E. Peterson—Chairman
Arnold C. Perham—Vice Chairman
Mrs. E. Newcomb Mills—Executive
Secretary

Harold C. Petterson—Treasurer

Thomas J. Campbell
Sidney E. Dupee
Charles D. Harrington
Clifford Hartley
Edward G. Krasnecki
Perry T. Snow
Judge John H. Valentine
*Mrs. Gordon DeWolf

*Mrs. DeWolfe was elected Jan. 17, 1957 to fill vacancy caused by death of Harold C. Petterson as Treasurer.

Banquet

William T. Picken—Chairman John H. Valentine—Liaison

Carl A. E. Peterson Harold C. Petterson Royal Shawcross

Church Affairs

Arnaud Blackadar—Co-Chairman
Mrs. Gordon P. DeWolf—Co-chairman
Perry T. Snow—Liaison

Maxwell Carter
Mrs. Harold Clayton
Daniel Haley
Rev. Landon Lindsay
Bernard McGovern
George A. Parkhurst
Mrs. Jessie A. Stewart
Raymond Vennard

Decorations

Bertram T. Needham

Final Report Committee

Charles D. Harrington—Chairman Arnold C. Perham Mrs. E. Newcomb Mills

Finance

Thomas J. Campbell—Chairman Frederick Burne Harold Clayton, Jr. Herbert Lamprey Harold C. Petterson

Firemen's Muster

Allan Kidder—Chairman Edward Hoyt—Secretary Charles D. Harrington—Liaison

George E. Baxendale Edward G. Quinn James O. Robinson George F. Waite

Fireworks

Thomas J. Campbell—Chairman Charles D. Harrington Allan Kidder

Guest

Mr. (and Mrs.) Roger W. Boyd— Chairmen

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Burne Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Greenwood Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hart

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Smith Mr. & Mrs Daniel Walker

History

Howard D. Smith—Chairman Arnold C. Perham—Liaison

Mrs. Lydwin Bachelder Lester W. Ball Mr. & Mrs. Robert Barris Frederick Burne Harold J. Davis Mrs. George Parkhurst Miss Gertrude Roberts

Music

Arthur Thompson—Chairman Leroy W. Allen—Guest Conductor Mrs. Ralph P. Coates—Secretary Mrs. E. Newcomb Mills—Liaison

Miss M. Marion Adams Lee Seldon Billington Arnaud R. Blackadar William L. Colmer Sumner W. Edwards Mrs. Arthur Englund Mrs. Julia W. Fogg Mrs. Vincent P. Garvey Mrs. F. Hildreth Hardy Mrs. Wesley M. Harper Mrs. Daniel J. Hart Daniel W. Hoxie Mrs. Horatius B. Leggat Miss Olive Littlehale Richard L. Monahan Everett V. Olsen Harry H. Pascall Francis A. Rowan Mrs. Raymond F. Vennard Miss Miriam E. Warren Ralph Wells Arthur B. Worthley

Official Seal

Mrs. Roger W. Boyd—Chairman Mrs. E. Newcomb Mills—Liaison

Mrs. Edgar Gilet Miss E. Ruth Greenberg Mrs. Christy Pettee Harry L. Shedd

Official Souvenir Program

Richard T. McDermott—Chairman Charles D. Harrington—Liaison

Raymond A. Hamel Kenneth Koch John McQuade Raymond T. Osborn Berchmans J. Rousseav Charles E. Swenson Franklin Taylor Mrs. Donald E. Wilder

Parade

Thomas J. Hennessy—Chairman John A. Breen—Vice Chairman H. Chadbourne Ward—Secretary Sidney E. Dupee-Liaison Leslie Adams, Sr. George Archer Cortlandt J. Burkinshaw Harry C. Churchill Benjamin Cole Charles E. Cooke, Jr. Arthur Cutter Paul F. Doyle Edward Dryden Anthony Ferreira Joseph Ferreira Edgar Gilet Valmar J. Gladu Joseph Hardman Raymond E. Harmon, Jr. Wesley M. Harper Edward D. Hart Joseph E. Hollingworth Charles A. House Carl A. Johnson John N. Leonard Leonard S. MacElroy Wilmur K. Murray Andrew H. Noyes Joseph L. O'Brien Terrence E. O'Rourke C. Richmond Page Robert Picken **Donald Rafferty** Ralph P. Symmes Roger P. Welch J. Bright Whitesides

Publicity

Sheppard Bartlett—Chairman Edward Krasnecki—Liaison

Lester W. Ball

Mrs. W. Pollard Bartlett

Malcolm W. Bedell

Mrs. Walter Bedell

Roy Brooks

George Dixon

Fred E. Grant

Clifford Marsden

Arne R. Olsen

Mrs. Hans Schliebus

Miss Janet Thibault

Souvenir

Bertram T. Needham—Chairman Clifford Hartley—Liaison

Miss Mary Cone

William Edge

Harold Linstad

Raymond Vennard

Paul Westwood

Mrs. Donald E. Wilder

Traffic

Ralph Hulslander--Chairman

Allen Adams

Winslow P. George

Raymond E. Harmon

Basil J. Larkin

Edward F. Miner

Ways and Means

Raymond T. Osborn—Chairman

Miss Mary Cone—Secretary

Clifford Hartley-Liaison

Lewis Bennett

Foster Braga

William Colmer

Mrs. Edward Dryden

William Edge

Theodore W. Emerson

Edgar George

Claude Harvey, Jr.

Charles A. House

Edwin Jewett

Allan Kidder

Herbert Lamprey

Harold Linstad

Charles Koulas

Richard T. McDermott

Mrs. Richard T. McDermott

Bertram Needham

Gilbert Perham

Fred Schecter

Roland Simard

Mrs. Cedric Smith

Robert Spaulding

Mrs. Irma Stanton

Arthur Thompson

Raymond Vennard

Paul Westwood

Edward Whalen

Mrs. Robert Whealen

Mrs. Donald E. Wilder

Women's Day

Mrs. Donald E. Wilder—Chairman

Mrs. E. Newcomb Mills-Liaison

Mrs. Robert Byam

Mrs. Frederick Burne

Mrs. Leslie Currier

Mrs. Forsaith Daniels

Mrs. Harry Dix

Mrs. Raymond Johnson

Mrs. Allan Kidder

Mrs. Armand LaHaise

Mrs. Horatius Leggat

Mrs. Lawrence Litchfield

Mrs. Richard Monahan

Mrs. Raymond T. Osborn

Mrs. James Robinson

Mrs. Clifford Varnum

Youth Activities

Thomas L. Rivard—Chairman

Mrs. E. Newcomb Mills-Liaison

Paul Bordeleau

John T. Conrad

George Dixon

Raymond Finn

John A. Gray

Weldon Haire

Mrs. Walter Lewis

Miss Olive Littlehale

Mrs. Robert Medin

Carl Parmenter

Carl Farmenter

Herman Purcell, Jr.

Mrs. Raymond Reid

Lawrence Silk

Francis Wiggin

Mrs. Harold Swett

Julian Zabierek

CHELMSFORD TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE TREASURER'S REPORT

RECEIPTS

The control of the co	#4 F 000 00	
Town Appropriation	\$15,000.00	
Town Appropriation	160.00	
		\$15,160.00
Sale of:		φ10,100.00
	E 70E 00	
Souvenir Program advertisements	5,795.00	
Souvenir Program	491.50	
Signatures in Program	909.30	
Souvenirs	2,340.71	
Tickets from all sources	1,536.75	
Auction Sale Receipts	871.24	
Miggellaneous Descints	180.96	
Miscellaneous Receipts	100.90	
		LIL ILLIYON
		\$12,125.46
		MICHIGAN PROPERTY.
		\$27,285.46
DISBURSEMENTS		φ=1,=00.10
For:		
	0 1100	
Amusements	\$ 14.60	
Auction Sale	112.50	
Banquets	1,283.10	
Church Affairs	50.00	
Concessions	8.00	
Descriptions	761.50	
Decorations		
Firemen's Muster	1,590.19	
Fireworks	600.00	
Guest Committee	181.25	
History Committee	134.56	
Insurance	300.00	
	14.00	
Janitor Service (Showing film)		
Legal Fees	63.75	
Movies	934.62	
Music	4,226.94	
Public Address System	225.00	Table to the same of the same
Parade	896.45	
Photographing Historical Sites	43.32	
Drinting: Souvenin Drograms etc	2,368.85	
Printing: Souvenir Programs, etc		
Printing, Final Report	296.00	
Publicity	1,234.75	
Tercentenary Seal	35.75	
Secretary (Petty Cash)	25.00	
Secretary, Clerk Hire	900.87	
Secretary, Other Expense	521.37	
Constant Talanhana		
Secretary, Telephone	117.85	
Souvenirs	2,484.01	
Still Pictures	134.75	
Tent	500.78	
Traffic & Safety	139.75	
Treasurer's Expense	31.97	
Women's Day Activities	139.03	
Youth Activities	481.86	
Balance Town Appropriation, transferred to		
Excess & Deficiency Acc't	2.31	
Balance of Corporation Funds paid to the		
Town of Chelmsford in accordance with		
Annual Town Meeting Vote, March 1957	6,430.78	
Annual Town Meeting vote, March 1997	0,400.78	
	AND THE RESERVE	
		\$27 285 46

\$27,285.46

December 28, 1957

Charlotte P. DeWolf, Treasurer